(b) No, Sir. The exchange is locally working satisfactorily. However, 30 Channel Radio Media is faulty and is expected to be rectified shortly.

(c) It is planned to replace the existing media with Optical Fiber Cable by March, 2003.

Shortage of Manpower in Department of Posts

900. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of staff in the Department of Posts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in each State, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any selection or recruitment programme was made for this department on National or State level; and

(d) if so, when the last recruitment was made for the same in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There is no general shortage of staff though there are vacancies in circles arising from time to time due to promotion, resignation, retirement, death etc. of the incumbents.

(b) The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The selection/recruitment is made at the National/Circle/Divisional level, depending upon the Group to which selection/recruitment is made.

(d) Filling of the vacancies by direct recruitment and by promotion is an on-going exercise. Promotional vacancies are filled up as and when these vacancies arise. According to the existing instructions, direct recruitment vacancies can be filled up to the extent of 1/3rd of the direct recruitment of vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. Action is in progress to fill up the direct recruitment vacancies relating to the years 2000 and 2001 in all Circles/States. The Annual Direct Recruitment Plan for the year 2002 is under preparation.

Statement

Vacancies in Department of Posts

Name of the Branch	Vacancies (Gazetted posts)	
	Group A*	Group B*
Postal Wing	47	50
Postal Civil Wing	13	14

* Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) are all India Cadres and do not have State-wise Vacancies.

Name of the State/Union Territory	Vacancies (Non-Gazetted posts)		
	Group B (Non-Gazetted)	Group C	Group D
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	17	1335	219
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	13	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	51	13
Assam	29	287	105
Bihar	27	1179	349
Chhattisgarh	11	405	130
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	7	0
Daman	0	2	1
Delhi	41	917	276
Diu	0	1	1
Goa	0	54	9
Gujarat	67	1532	352
Haryana	8	398	85

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	9	200	46
Jammu & Kashmir	0	167	100
Jharkhand	4	351	46
Karnataka	33	1347	309
Kerala	18	1327	247
Madhya Pradesh	0	53	14
Maharashtra	155	3088	987
Manipur	3	14	3
Meghalaya	1	190	31
Mizoram	0	16	19
Nagaland	0	31	5
Orissa	0	825	149
Punjab	15	958	161
Rajasthan	38	682	220
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	25	816	337
Tripura	5	72	16
Uttar Pradesh	77	2446	789
Uttranchal	8	277	62
West Bengal	9	1641	417
Secretariat (Delhi)	2	51	19

Opening of New Post Office in Ghaziabad

901. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no Post Office exists in Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to cater the needs of thousands of people living in that area;